Dispute over C. P. P. between MTNL, DoT and TRAI

2629. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the current state of dispute between MTNL, DoT and TRAI over the Calling Party Pays (CPP) regime ;

(b) by when, there would be a settlement regarding this ;

(c) whether dispute settlement procedure can be evolved for future occurrence of such disputes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The court case regarding CPP regime was disposed off by the Divisional Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by its final orders in the CWP No. 6543 dated 17-01-2000 wherein the telecommunication interconnection charges and revenue sharing (First amendment) Regulation 1999 (3 of 1999) issued by TRAI on 17th September, 1999 was quashed. Thus, as on date the CPP regime does not exist.

(c) and (d) The amendment to the TRAI Act provides for a dispute resolution by Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal which is to be set up as per Section 14 of the amended TRAI Act.

Recommendations of Shukla Commission

2630. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient recommendation of the Shukla Commission on development of the Telecommunications in the North East in terms of PM's special package ; and

(b) the action taken, target fixed and achievement made so far in implementing each of the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The salient recommendations of Shukla Commission on development of Telecommunications in the North East in terms of PM's special package and the status against these recommendations are given below :

Recommendation I

All administrative officers upto the Taluka/Block lavel should be provided with a fax connection in view of the difficult terrain and long delays involved in mail communications, especially in Arunachal Pradesh DoT should do so by extending fascimile transmission facilities through the multiple-access radio relay system (MARR) which currently only provides for audio-quality payphones operations. This must be given top priority.

Recommendation II

The concerned departments should review the possibility of overall cost savings if the requirements of DoT, the Defence and para-military forces, police, AIR DD and other can be served through common transmission masts, earth stations and other facilities, including shared sites and buildings.

Recommendation III

Moreh (Manipur) has a separate exchange. This should be provided ISD facilities through VSNL in view of the new cross-border trade opportunities opening up. The same applies to Champhai (Mizoram) and other potential international tradecentres. The Northeast's telecommunication links and Dhaka, Chittagong, Yangon, Mandalay and Thimphu should be suitably strengthened.

Recommendation IV

Special connections and links should be provided to designated points within the region as well to Bhutan and Bangladesh for transmission of rainfall, water discharge and flood data in real time. DoT/VSNL should plan this in consultation with the Ministry of Water Resources in the interests of regional cooperation.

Status against eacn of the above recommendations is given below :

(i) FAX on multiple-access radio relay system (MARR) is possible. However, since the MARR technology has not been found dependable, further introduction of this system has been discontinued. Fax facility is possible on the new technology systems under consideration for the provision of Village Public Telephone such as C-DOT-PMP and Satellite systems. Government will be able to extend all possible assistance to the State Government as soon as their requirements of FAX is provided.

(ii) Requirements of Defence, Para-military forces, police, and AIR are normally projected to the DTS. These are being met from the common media of DTS. DTS's network in NE Region is adequate to meet the requirements. Expansion plans are worked out based on the demands.

(iii) Moreh (Manipur) has 1000 line C-DoT Digital Electronic Exchange which is connected to Imphal through Optical Fibre systems provide STD/ISD facility. Champhai (Mizoram) is having 512-ILT and 1000 Line C-DoT Exchange and it is connected at present on Single Channel per Carrier system on Satellite communication system with 5+4 circuits. Intermediate Data Rate system/ OFC has been planned for Champai to improve this.

N.E. State's International calls go through DTS's Network to the National Gateway provided with International connectivity to the neighbouring countries. There is a proposal to have a link from Agartala to Brahmanbaria in Bangladesh. Details of existing connectivity to neighbouring countries is given in statement (*see* below).

(iv) No requirement from the concerned Ministries have been received in this regard. However, any requirement can be met in the telecom network of DTS.

STATEMENT

International Connectivities With Neighbouring Countries

1. *Nepal*

(a) The medium between Nepal and India is Digital from Patna to Birganj the digital medium is on Optical Fibre Cable and from Birganj to Kathmandu it is Digital Microwave.

(b) Out of 30 Mb/s Capacity available between Patna and Kathmandu eleven PCM slots are occupied at present and five slots are vacant which can be made available for leased lines.

2. *Bhutan*

(a) The medium between India and Bhutan is digital from Siliguri to Hashimara the Medium is Optical Fibre Cable and Hashimara to Phutsholling is on 2GHz 120 Channel Microwave link.

(b) Out of the four PCMs available between Phutsholling and Siliguri three are occupied by TAX Circuits and one PCM is available for Non-Tax Circuits with first order MUX available at Calcutta and Phutsholling. Out of 30 channels available in this PCM five are occupied at present and twenty five circuits are free which can be utilized for leased lines.

3. *Bangladesh*

(a) The medium between India and Bangladesh is Analong M/W. There is a proposal for an optical fibre link from Calcutta to Jessore and a Microwave link from Agartala to Brahmanbaria.

(b) Between India and Bangladesh no spare slot is available as only one Supergroup is working present which is occupied by TAX Circuits.

Outgoing Telex traffic from Calcutta to Thimpu (Bhutan) and from Calcutta to Dhaka (Bangladesh) have been re-routed via VSNL GATEX Switch.

Expansion and Upgradation of Telecommunication system in North-East Region

2631. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) The funds allocated for development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunications system in rural and urban areas in the NER particularly in the the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the implementation with regard to development and upgradation of telecommunications in rural and urban areas is very slow in NER in comparison to other-States of the Country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The funds allocated to North East Region including Task Force Guwahati are given below :